

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are currently active in this case.

In the outstanding office action, claims 1, 7-9, 11, 12, 15, 16, and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by International Publication No. WO 02/11074-A2 to Zalewski; and claims 2-6, 10, 13, 14, and 17-19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. However, because Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 9, 12, 16, and 20 patentably distinguish over the cited references of record, claims 2-6, 10, 13, 14, and 17-19 have been maintained in dependent form.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention is directed to a mobile communication terminal and a mobile communication method. Claim 1 defines a mobile communication terminal including means for receiving identification information from at least one mini-communicator (by way of a non-limiting example, an RFID transponder) which transmits predetermined identification information of its own; means for communicating with a server or another terminal via a cellular communication network; and means for receiving a switching signal for switching among a plurality of modes including an identification receive mode activating only the means for receiving identification information, and a cellular communication mode activating only the means for communicating. Such a configuration enables a reduction in power consumption and addresses traffic issues on a cellular communications system. See the specification at page 2, lines 8-21.

The Zalewski publication discloses an electronic device for use in a payment system. The device includes an RFID transponder. However, the Zalewski publication fails to teach or suggest means *for receiving identification* from an RFID transponder. Further, Zalewski discloses a device which switches from a payment system mode to a mobile communication mode. In contrast thereto, the present invention is directed to a device which switches from a mode for receiving IDs of mini-communicators to a mode for cellular communication. Hence, the present invention enables a reduction in power consumption and addresses traffic issues whereas Zalewski is unable to provide these advantages.

For the foregoing reasons, Zalewski is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by independent claims 1, 9, 12, 16, and 20. Dependent claims 2-8, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17-19 are believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. And early in favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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